

## Special Topic– December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Safe toys and gifts are of particular importance to domestic violence programs in December as staff are busy playing Santa for children and adults living in their shelters and being served by their agencies. Many gifts and toys are donated, and when funds are tight, safety can sometimes be forgotten; however, these guidelines can make it a little easier:

- In general, if the piece from a toy can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.
- Do not give toys with ropes, cords, or heating elements.
- Do not give crayons and markers unless they are labeled “nontoxic”.

For more information on safe toys, click [here](#) and [here](#).



## Fundraising Activities



Many programs take advantage of the season by combining fundraising efforts with a way for people to get their holiday shopping done. Here are a couple of great examples.

**LAWS** participates in an alternative gift market through a local church that features 30 booths with crafts and alternative gifts supporting local non-profits, including LAWS. The Gift Market was held on December 7 from

10AM to 2PM in Reston. For more information, go [here](#).

**Abuse Alternatives** is offering the opportunity to get some of your shopping completed early. The agency is currently taking orders for *That's My Pan* - Personalized gifts, bake ware, ceramics, and much, much more! This opportunity makes shopping easy and meaningful. You get a great gift, while at the same time, supporting your local domestic violence agency! For more information, click [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### Amazon Launches New Charity Site- AmazonSmile

Amazon has released a new project, [Amazon Smile](#), which gives shoppers the opportunity to donate through the site to the charity of their choice. By shopping at [smile.amazon.com](#) instead of plain old [amazon.com](#), 0.5 percent of the value of their purchases will be donated. Charities looking to register their organizations can visit [org.amazon.com](#), sign up, and begin spreading the [AmazonSmile](#) link to start the giving to your nonprofit.



The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) issued the 2014 Request for Proposals for Family Violence Prevention, Treatment, and Public Awareness Projects on Friday, December 6, 2013. An **optional** pre-proposal conference is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2013 in Henrico, VA, and proposals are due on Wednesday, January 29, 2014. Please follow the steps below to view the posting. Go to the eVA website at [www.eva.virginia.gov](#), select 'Solicitations, Quick Quotes & Awards', type CVS-14-034 in the 'Keyword Search' field, click on 'Details' to view the RFP and the supporting documents.

## FAQ– grant and invoices

*Can DVP funds be used for a fee or cost-sharing portion of an AmeriCorps volunteer (which pays for various volunteer costs, including a living allowance, etc.)?*

After consulting with OJP General Counsel, OVC recently responded that they do not see anything in our federal funders' guidelines that would prohibit this: VOCA requires that eligible assistance funded programs utilize volunteers, and promote public and private efforts to aid crime victims. The VOCA Assistance Guidelines specifically allow personnel costs – defining these as costs that are directly related to providing direct services and lists a number of examples. It seems that the fee/cost sharing would be in the nature of personnel costs in this context, and therefore be allowable. While the use of federal funds for the fee or cost-sharing portion for an AmeriCorps volunteer is permissible, the AmeriCorps grant or the volunteer's time, because they involve the use of federal funds, cannot be used as match for the DVP grant.

## Training Opportunities

### KEY DRIVERS and INDICATORS of EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

*December 10, 2013 at 12PM EST*

To what extent are your employees engaged right now? What is standing between their current level of function and full engagement? While this may surprise you, it's a fact that employee engagement begins with certain emotions. These emotions are the foundation for performance. Without exception, employee feelings precede decisions, choices, and actions. This teleseminar, by Launching Lives, dives into this topic to help managers increase employee engagement. [Register here.](#)

### Intersection of HIV/AIDS and Intimate Partner Violence

*Thursday, December 12th at 3:00pm EST*

Intimate partner violence (IPV) increases a woman's risk of HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS diagnosis can increase a woman's risk of intimate partner violence. While both issues are prominent in communities, collaboration between agencies that serve each population does not intrinsically exist. This free webinar sponsored by the Office on Women's Health will give front-line advocates from both communities tangible tools to assist survivors of intimate partner violence with accessing information about and resources for HIV and domestic violence. Our goal is to strengthen community collaboration, enhance services and safety planning, and create integrated client-centered services for survivors of IPV and/or HIV. [Register for this session here.](#)

### Substance Abuse, Trauma, and Domestic Violence

*December 12, 2013, 3:00 - 4:30 pm EST*

This is an 8-part webinar series with Patti Bland, MA, CDP. This webinar series will build on [Real Tools: Responding to Multi-Abuse Trauma](#), offering a practical toolkit for providing trauma-informed services that are responsive to the needs of survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault affected by substance abuse. Thursday Go to [Register here.](#)

### From "Race" to "Culture"

*December 19, 2013, at 3pm EST*

This webinar is intended to help you acquire knowledge and skills that will increase your resiliency, your sense of fulfillment from work as well as your study of your own culture, which is immensely important for organizations who deal with diverse cultural communities. [To register please, click here.](#)

### Get DO YOU Certified!

*January 23-24, 2014*

The Action Alliance is offering the DO YOU Certification Training in **Richmond**. This training is designed for adult facilitators and teen mentors (who are peer facilitators) interested in implementing DO YOU in their communities. This comprehensive training will equip you with all materials and experience necessary to successfully implement the 10-session DO YOU program locally with small groups of teens ages 13-16.

**Cost:** \$300; each adult registration entitles you to bring up to two teen mentors for free.

[More info and registration here](#)

## Board Development

Some Executive Directors struggle with getting their boards interested, engaged and/ or skilled enough to do fundraising. Many board members get bogged down in the details of financial and committee reports and other critical issues affecting the agency at meetings. In this Power Point presentation, provided through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, discusses 5 ways to ignite the fundraising passion among your board members. One suggestion made is to set aside time each meeting for a board member to discuss what it means to them to be a part of the organization as well as an impact story about a client that has received services. To view this presentation, go [here](#).

## Self-care Tips

'Tis the season! For many people working the domestic violence field, December brings extra stress. Many shelter elves work hard to make the holidays extra special for families who are struggling, in addition to an already bulging workload, and not to mention having their own personal holiday obligations. December probably seems like the time of the year that self-care is least possible, but that is when it's most important!



Incorporate self-care in a fun way this month by having a contest at work for the best, easiest holiday self-care idea, or creating a self-care board for everyone to post their favorite ideas or spend 5 minutes at every staff meeting discussing, or doing, something simple, like a 5 minute meditation. Whatever you do, take a moment to know that we appreciate everything you do!!

*Happy Holidays from the Office of Family Violence!!!*